



National Domestic Preparedness Consortium Member Since 1998

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# HAZMAT

## Hazardous Materials Preparedness: Training For All-Hazards Response

The recent botched attempt to discharge explosive material in New York's Times Square may leave city leaders across America questioning their own levels of preparedness during an emergency.

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), plays a leading role in preparing cities and local response forces to protect, prevent, deter, and respond to acts of terrorism or major accidents involving hazardous materials.

According to Captain William Brown, from the Minot Police Department, Minot, N.D., the Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials Technician (ERHM) course reinforced situational awareness, identified potential hazards, and emphasized the need to communicate with other disciplines.

"First responders, especially law enforcement, need to recognize the need for enhanced training regarding first response to hazardous materials," added Brown. "Whether it is a chemical spill, train derailment, or a terrorist attack, police officers must recognize the threat is real and their role is vital to ensure any threats to the public are minimized, if not mitigated." He went on to say, "I am now better prepared proactively by recognizing potential threats, identifying available resources, and realizing the need to work collectively with other first responders in addressing methods to impact those events should they occur."

Released earlier this year, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Report stated that, among others, the threats and hazards that

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Responders attending ERHM learn to identify hazardous scenes before they happen. They are also introduced to various levels of protective equipment and provided the knowledge to properly cleanup a hazardous incident. They also configure decontamination lines during exercise driven scenarios. Read more on page three.

## Path of Success

Students and faculty of the Calhoun County Career Technical Center hosted a week-long event to



inspire the county's youth about potential career paths. The event, titled Careers on Wheels Day was held April 5-9, and introduced many of the county schools to a variety of professions.

The CDP displayed many tools that are used by emergency responders to respond to and recover from hazardous incidents. The CDP setup a decontamination tent, radiological detection equipment, and one of the most popular items, the Human Patient Simulator (HPS), a lifelike device that portrays a victim; the HPS

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## Supporting Those Who Serve Armed Forces Day 2010



Forces Day, May 15. An estimated 1,400 people from surrounding counties honored the men and women serving in the United

The Center for Domestic Preparedness joined more than 45 organizations from around Alabama for this year's Armed

States military, in and out of uniform.

Among displays of modern military transport vehicles, aircraft, NASCAR, and veterans organizations (to name of few), the CDP showed off its 80-foot Mobile Advanced Training Trailer (MATT) that housed a Fire Arms Simulator (FAS), and a Human Patient Simulator (HPS). Outdoor displays included a decontamination tent, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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# Experienced Others Drive Preparedness, Response Knowledge

This month I had the privilege of speaking at the National Environmental Health Association's (NEHA) national conference in Albuquerque. Environmental health professionals play an important role in disaster response and I was surprised at the number of educational conference sessions appearing in their agenda that addressed disaster response related topics. Equally impressive were the presentations of research outcomes in environmental health that could be tied to issues likely to be of concern during a disaster response. As I reflected on these insights I came to two conclusions.

First, it would be easy to get lulled into thinking our business is performed by only a few disciplines generally found in the fire, EMS, law enforcement, or health care leadership domains for example. While these and several other disciplines are indeed the backbone of emergency preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation, there are also other disciplines equally important to holistic emergency management capability. We must be mindful of this fact and constantly be looking at new partnerships that will build more inclusive training opportunities to achieve holistic emergency management capability. For us at the CDP, this means expanding our thinking to bring this same perspective to the CBRNE focus we are responsible for delivering to the emergency response profession.

Our success in the Agricultural Emergency Response Training and the partnership we have built with USDA demonstrates this principal. Another example is the partnership we have forged with the Center's for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response curriculum that we jointly developed and that is now receiving overwhelming enrollment by state and local environmental health professionals. These are the kinds of innovations that build holistic national capability.

Another thought my visit at the NEHA Conference stirred is the importance of peer reviewed research in expanding national capability. Good research is not limited to the halls of academe in hypothesis testing and the application of the quantitative method. While certainly important to learning, so too equally is the application of qualitative methods such as phenomenological study, case study, and qualitative interviewing as examples.

I believe the description of qualitative data provided by Michael Patton in his work, *Qualitative Evaluation Methods*, where he writes: "Qualitative data consist of the detailed descriptions of situations, events, people, interactions and observed behaviors; direct quotations, from people about their experiences, attitudes, beliefs, and thoughts; and excerpts or entire passages from documents correspondence, records, and case histories."

offers great direction to the kind of research needed in our field. This is the essence of learning from the experiences of others operating in unique circumstances that are not possible to create in the laboratory.

Taking this view about research it is easy to conclude why Administrator Fugate has made the case for the importance of the social science discipline as part of the FEMA capability. If disaster preparedness is fundamentally about the preparedness of people and disaster response is fundamentally about the reaction to situations by trained people, we are well advised to expand our ability to learn from the people, who by their unique experiences obtained in disaster response operations, have matchless knowledge sets to pass on in support of our development of even more relevant curriculum. This rationale forms the foundation of why CDP works so hard to find seasoned, experienced professionals to serve as instructors. "Experienced others" training the next generation of those who will apply knowledge and skill as they experience their own unique situations, complexities, and challenges is by any account, the right thing to do. ~



Todd Jones, CDP Superintendent



The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) is the only Congressionally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training center for civilians. The CDP specializes in providing resident and non-resident advanced hands-on, all-hazards training for America's state, local, and tribal emergency responders in their mission to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from terrorist acts and other catastrophic events, especially those involving WMD or hazardous materials. The CDP's cutting-edge training incorporates the nation's only toxic chemical agent training facility for civilian responders and a fully scoped hospital used for training mass casualty incident management for healthcare and public health professionals. When appropriate, the CDP can train other federal government, foreign, and private responders on a reimbursable, not-to-interfere basis. Training at the CDP is fully funded by DHS. The CDP's training programs offer a selection of 42 courses, a large on-site billeting and dining capacity, and a fully certified, multi-disciplined instructional staff with an average of 19 years of experience in their respective emergency response field. Newsletter articles are written by CDP Public Affairs staff unless otherwise noted. Contents of the CDP Focus do not imply endorsement by the CDP, NPD, FEMA, DHS or the Federal Government. Items appearing in this newsletter are considered of potential interest to CDP staff and responder students. Content suggestions should be directed to the Public Affairs Office at 256-847-2212. Learn more about the CDP at <http://cdp.dhs.gov>. ~

Superintendent  
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## HAZMAT

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challenge U.S. interests include “high-consequence weapons of mass destruction.” The report further specifies improvised nuclear devices and high-consequence biological weapons would have the greatest potential effects if used against the United States.

New York’s recent failed attempt to kill and maim innocent people may be an example of what the “bad guys” are planning, in order to disrupt order, create chaos, and instill fear across the nation.

“The ERHM program is relevant to all responders,” said Frank Esposito, acting course manager. “Whether you are a fire fighter, police officer, or emergency medical technician, all

response personnel must have an understanding of identifying and mitigating hazards. This course is a response course and we teach first responders to respond properly, save lives, protect themselves, and mitigate the scene.”

Among the many courses offered at the CDP for emergency response personnel, ERHM is a five-day class providing responders with a combination of lectures and advanced hands-on practical exercises.



The course introduces response personnel to the terrorist threat, the hazardous materials management system, responder health and safety, the Incident Command System (ICS), site management, information management, response objectives, and terminating the incident. The responder receives hands-on training in identifying hazardous materials, using advanced surveying and monitoring equipment, selecting and using the appropriate level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and performing decontamination procedures.

“It is a busy week of training,” said Mike Aguilar, CDP training specialist. “But well worth the time when you consider the importance

of having a well trained hazardous materials technician in hometown America.” Aguilar stressed, “The responders from various disciplines attending this course arrive at the CDP with very little or no experience responding to a hazardous materials incident. Graduates of this course return to their jurisdictions better prepared to safely respond to and mitigate a HAZMAT incident including weapons of mass destruction involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive materials.”

In December 2008, the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism released a unanimous threat assessment which stated: “Unless the world community acts decisively and with great urgency, it is more likely than not that a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) will be used in a terrorist attack somewhere in the world by the end of 2013—that weapon is more likely to be biological than nuclear.”

These conclusions make it more evident that response personnel must remain vigilant and skilled with the preparedness knowledge to protect the citizens and cities they serve. ERHM provides the necessary training to prepare response personnel to tackle hazardous incidents.

The CDP is the only facility operated by the federal government for civilian training in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) events. The CDP fully funds all training—including airfare, lodging and meals.

The CDP is a component of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Training and Education Division in the Department of Homeland Security. The Anniston training center is the nation’s only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training facility for civilian responders.

Learn more about the CDP at <http://cdp.dhs.gov>. ~





## CAREERS

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talks, breathes, and even shows a pulse.

“The CDP provided an incredible experience for all the Career Tech Students,” said Donna Nash, career tech guidance counselor. “All displays were interactive, which allowed students the opportunity to have a hands-on approach at each station. The purpose of the event was to plant a seed for career awareness in the minds of all of the sixth grade students in the Calhoun County School System, and offer the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who attend the Career and Technical Center the opportunity for more career exploration. In doing this, there was a collaborative effort with local business and industry, community and service organizations, and educators, as well as the programs here at the Career Tech Center.”

This was the first year to offer Careers on Wheels, and although the CDP was unable to participate the entire week, they greeted more than 450 Calhoun County students during their day-long display. ~





## ARMED FORCES DAY Continued from page 1

exhibits, potential explosive devices, and how a drug lab that manufactures methamphetamines can pose a large danger to communities.

"It was great to have FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness participate in Armed Forces Day," said Col. Chuck Keith, Training Center Director. "The CDP has a unique mission and offers so much to our emergency response personnel. The community needs to know what the CDP does. The display this year was exciting and we hope the CDP attends every Armed Forces Day."

"I thought the FEMA displays were cool," said Amanda Clark, of Oxford, Ala. "These tools build confidence in the people [the CDP] trains. A real situation could be nervous, so it is good our emergency personnel can take advantage of training—this seems about as real as it gets," she added.

According to David Hall, CDP Beacon contract employee and representative of student services, participating in Armed Forces Day is the right idea. "Events like this keep the community in touch with our mission, and the more they know the better for our responders," said Hall. ~





# DMAT Hones Skills During Mobilization Exercise

During April the CDP hosted eight Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) with over 175 medical responders from the Department of Health and Human Services, National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). These men and women from various parts of the U.S. played a key role in the NDMS East Regional Field Training Exercise (FTX) #2, as part of seven regional FTXs being held this year.



These DMAT exercises are held at various locations in the eastern, central, and western regions of the U.S. The DMAT teams spent a full week at the CDP, operating from the Noble Training Facility (NTF) and the setting up of a full DMAT Base of Operations (BoO). The final eight-hour practical exercise was based on an earthquake scenario, resulting in a wide variety of injuries and deaths. The DMATs processed and treated over 40 simulated patients during this part of their practical training.



DMAT medical personnel, made up of physicians, nurses and variety of experts and support personnel contributed to the DMAT exercise. Nursing students from Jacksonville State University served as role players, adding



to the realism placed on the exercise and giving them a chance to learn about the NDMS.

The purpose of the DMAT FTX is to evaluate the ability to deploy, stage,

and demobilize HHS field medical resources, both personnel and equipment, using effective command and control techniques under simulated conditions.

Additionally, the exercise evaluated the ability of personnel to deploy and set up operations at a simulated austere site, provide medical assessment, triage, and treatment, in response to a earthquake disaster. ~











# Ready on the Firing Line

“Ready on the right”...“Ready on the left”...“FIRE!” Weapons popping—magazines dropping were the recent activity conducted by Wackenhut Services Incorporated (WSI). During semi-annual weapons qualification, the WSI team came together to demonstrate their marksmanship skills and simple ability to hit their target.

The shooters fire a total of 50 rounds—each worth two points—from the 25, 15, 7, and 5-yard lines. The WSI security officers qualify every six months with a GLOCK .40 caliber weapon.

These six security officers made the list of top shooters and have sharpshooting bragging rights for the next few months. ~

	Eddie Murphy	100
	Richard Gaines	100
	John Chance	98
	Albert Lassiter	98
	Michael Harvell	98
	David Jackson	98





# Mobile Methamphetamine Lab Demonstrates Danger Next Door

For more than six years the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has provided instruction to America's state, local, and tribal emergency responders on the highly toxic dangers associated with the illegal manufacture of methamphetamines. Methamphetamine, also known as meth, is a central nervous system stimulant drug that is highly abused and very addictive. Meth is routinely produced in small, illegal laboratories where the manufacturing process uses highly toxic, corrosive, and very dangerous materials which endanger the individuals making the meth, people living nearby, the environment, and law enforcement or other emergency response personnel who might come across the laboratories during their duties. Meth labs are both a chemical and an explosive threat.

As an element of the curriculum at the CDP, a mockup of a mobile meth lab is used to demonstrate the danger of the ingredients used to make meth and the simple production process. According to Rick Searcy, retired deputy sheriff and a CDP contract instructor, it is important for response personnel to understand and be able to identify the potentially dangerous situations they may find as more and more meth labs crop up across the United States. A recent trend for meth manufacturers is the creation and use of "mini" labs of sorts to mix the drug "on the go." These mini labs are often put in the backseats and trunks of vehicles and, since they are mobile, they are believed to be less likely to be found by law enforcement officials.



"The CDP's mobile methamphetamine lab provides the basic appearance and ingredients to look for," said Searcy. "The average, honest citizen or emergency responder may not recognize the present danger and it's directly before them. Imagine a police officer conducting a routine traffic stop, while this poison and explosive cooks in the trunk of a car. They need to understand how to properly respond, identify the danger, and the appropriate measure to protect themselves and the public."

The CDP also includes its mobile meth lab as part of displays provided for various community events throughout Alabama. "We use the lab to educate the public and our children at these events," said Searcy. "We talk to them how about how highly addictive meth is, how it affects families, changes personality, physical appearance, or could end their life. Our mobile meth lab provides response personnel and the public the ability to identify a bad situation and react safely." At events, the almost one-third vehicle trailer captures the attention of children and adults alike. ~

Events such as Armed Forces Day (top right) and Be Ready Day (left) allow the CDP an opportunity to create an awareness regarding methamphetamine labs and how criminals use these toxic-manufacturing facilities on the road. All too often, meth manufacturers create "mini" labs of sorts to mix the drug on the go. These mini labs are becoming more and more popular in the backseats and trunks of vehicles and pose a significant risk to response personnel during routine traffic stops. ~



## Preparedness Challenge

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

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C C E R E T E D N T E C R
F O I N C I D E N T S O O
R D M O M E S P T Y S M I
C R P M R E R P S C E M A
R E E D A E N E N N N A S
S Y M D V N K Y O E D N R
G F Q E N H D X I G E D Q
H D N M B O Y K T R R E M
C T N M Q T P W A E A R N
N L X R E N T S R M P C K
M C V F T H R F E E E K D
T N A Z C Q C J P R R L T
P S K T C J K T O K P T R
  
```

Custom puzzle made for CDP Public Affairs; [www.WordSearchMaker.com](http://www.WordSearchMaker.com)

Command  
Commander  
Deter  
Emergency  
Incident  
Operations  
Preparedness  
Prevent  
Responder  
Safety

Solutions on Next Page

## We Want to Know!

Please feel free to contact the Public Affairs Office staff with articles and items that are of interest to CDP employees.

Also send us your comments, ideas, or suggestions to make your newsletter more useful.

Call 256-847-2212 or stop by the Public Affairs Office in room 2010 of Building 61.

Email:

[pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov](mailto:pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov)



(Left) Dr. Todd Jones, CDP superintendent, cuts the ribbon following the grand opening of a newly constructed Safety Control at the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological (COBRA) Training Facility. (Above) Phil Portuese (URS), Victor Williams (URS), and Meredith Strain (STEM), keep close watch of the COBRA training areas. The renovated Safety Control boasts new monitoring equipment and racks, to include much needed additional space, lighting and better training visibility to improve safety and accountability. ~



# Alabama Association of Emergency Managers Recognizes CDP Employee



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State Employees

### NEWS RELEASE

May 13, 2010

For additional information contact Eddie Hicks - Director of the Morgan Co. EMA  
256.351.4620 or ehicks@hiwaay.net

### CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS EMPLOYEE RECEIVES BASIC LEVEL CERTIFICATION

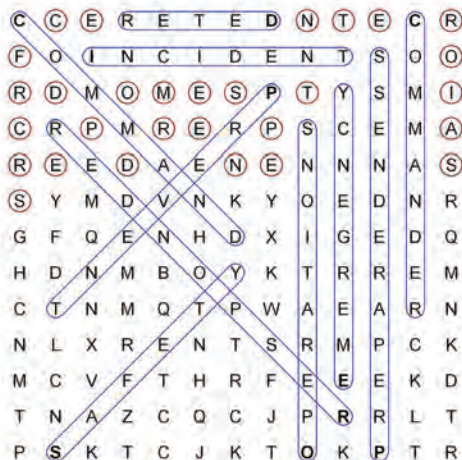
The Alabama Association of Emergency Managers is pleased to announce that Ms. Beverly Flint an employee with the Center for Domestic Preparedness has successfully completed the educational and training requirements leading to the designation of Basic Level Emergency Manager. Certification at the Basic Level entails the completion of 200 hours of core Emergency Management curriculum coursework and 100 hours of optional management-related training. By this certification, Ms. Flint has demonstrated a dedication to the emergency Preparedness profession by willingly undertaking and successfully completing this academic endeavor. Ms. Flint is hereby entitled to use the designation of BLEM following her name.

*Eddie Hicks*  
Eddie Hicks ALEM CLEM CEM



Congratulations to Beverly Flint, evaluation specialist for HGS Engineering, Inc. She has achieved the Basic Level of Certification in Emergency Management. This achievement places her in an elite group of individuals who dedicate their efforts to elevate their level of proficiency in the Emergency Management profession. Flint's next step is to achieve the 245 hours required for the Intermediate Level of Certification. Way to go! ~

## Preparedness Challenge



"I just wanted to tell you that I had a great time in Anniston. I was a little nervous about the training but I wouldn't change this experience for anything. I met wonderful people from all over the U.S. and your instructors were awesome. I have already highly recommended the training to my fellow co-workers. This training has been the best I've experienced in all my 15 years in law enforcement."

Lisette Garcia  
California



# CDP Supports VA During Annual Training

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently conducted its Annual Field Deployment Training and Exercise at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). The three-and-a-half day event joined some 330 VA employees in a life-like emergency scenario.

According to Karen LaScala, Emergency Management Program Officer for the VHA Office of Safety, Environmental and Emergency Management, the annual exercise is aimed at training staff that would deploy in the event of a mission tasking from Health and Human Service (HHS) to VA. LaScala says that VA's 4th mission

is back up to the DoD and as a support agency to HHS

during an emergency under the National Response Framework. The Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group is a program office responsible for VHA training and exercises and fully supported this training.

"[The VA] may be tasked to support emergency relief; particularly to manage and operate a Federal Medical Shelter (FMS) which can house up to 250 evacuees," said LaScala. "We have operated FMSs after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. Exercises such as this better trains and prepares our personnel for the real world and the CDP provided a realistic environment and offered a training venue for a large

number of participants."

The exercise scenario for this year's training event involved a response to a hurricane as it ravaged a largely populated area of the East Coast. On-call VA response personnel began receiving hurricane updates five days prior to landfall as the scenario developed. Ultimately a 330 member team deployed and quickly initiated care for the injured and other survivors—complete with moulage; response personnel were required to properly treat injuries and provide medical care.

Dean Martell, an emergency program coordinator with the VA, said emergencies, whether natural or manmade, force VA healthcare workers to discard their routine work processes or place them outside of their comfort zone. Training such as this better equips their members to be more effective participants at the beginning of an emergency.

"Through training, our members are prepared for the emotional and psychological impact of serving in an area that has experienced deep trauma." Martell added, "This event provided the situational awareness and competencies needed so that we can begin to contribute immediately—protecting evacuees and other survivors."

LaScala and Martell went on to say that FEMA's CDP "provided an excellent facility for the didactic training sessions and a realistic environment as the VA attendees practiced the skills needed at a FMS. The setting provided by the CDP allowed all the skills discussed in the training to be applied. In addition, the CDP space was large enough to allow on-the-spot debriefings while not disturbing adjacent skill training courses." ~



Photos by Mick Castillo